

Message Text

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53

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 L-02 NSC-05 CAB-02 CIAE-00

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----- 089062

R 251250Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0226

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - US-ITALY CIVAIR CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 63239; (B) ROME 1388

1. AFTER MINISTRY TRANSPORT AND CIVIAL AVIATION APPROVED SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS, EMBASSY INFORMALLY EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF GOI PERMITTING TRAVEL GROUP CHARTERS (TGC) WITH CIVILAVIA AND ALITALIA REPS IN EFFORT FURTHER FACILITATE TOURISM DURING HOLY YEAR. EVEN ON BASIS OF REMAINDER 1975 ONLY, REACTION WAS COMPLETELY NEGATIVE. EMBASSY DID NOT RPT NOT DISCUSS OTHER TYPES OF CHARTERS AND HAS NOT RPT NOT APPROACHED MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA).

2. ITALIAN POSITION (REF B) IS THAT, IN ABSENCE EFFECTIVE REASONABLE (AS DEFINED BY ALITALIA) MINIMUM CHARTER RATES/ PRICES, GOI WILL NOT RPT NOT PERMIT ANY TYPE OF LOW-COST CHARTERS FOR WHICH TICKETS CAN BE SOLD ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. THUS, AFFINITY (SINGLE AND SPLIT) CHARTERS, WHICH ARE SOLD ON GROUP BASIS, AND INCLUSIVE TOUR CHARTERS (ITC), WHICH ARE NOT CONSIDERED LOW COST, ARE PERMITTED; OTHER TYPES OF CHARTERS ARE NOT RPT NOT PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED. ALITALIAN CONSIDERS CAB'S PROPOSED (NOW WITHDRAWN) MINIMUM CHARTER RATES TO BE TOO LOW.

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3. EMBASSY AGREES IT WOULD BE USEFUL RAISE THIS SUBJECT

DURING CONSULTATIONS. LIBERALIZATION OF PRESENT RESTRICTIVE
ITALIAN CHARTER REGULATIONS LIKELY TO REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT
PRESSURE FROM VARIED SOURCES OVER EXTENDED PERIOD OF
TIME. GOI CURRENTLY PLACES INTERESTS OF ALITALIA ABOVE THOSE
OF TOURISM, DESPITE IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM TO NATIONAL ECONOMY
AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. EVEN APPROVAL SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS
RESULTED IN SEVERAL HOSTILE PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS FOR MINISTER
TRANSPORT. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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